

Claim 7, line 3, correct the spelling of "alveolar"

C Claim 9 (amended) The process according to claim 8 wherein the plasmid contains a DNA [coding] encoding a polypeptide, wherein  
C said polypeptide has the amino acid sequence [in] of SEQ ID No: 1.  
[of the Sequence Listing] with a methionine at the N-terminus.

Claim 10 (amended) A process for preparing the dimer protein according to claim 2 which comprises the steps of:

constructing a plasmid containing a DNA [coding] encoding a polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide has the amino acid sequence  
in SEQ ID No: 1 [of the Sequence Listing] with a methionine at the N-terminus,

B3/MC7  
introducing the plasmid into E.coli for transformation,  
solubilizing inclusion bodies obtained by culturing said E.coli,  
purifying the monomer protein from the solubilized solution,  
refolding the monomer protein into a dimer protein and  
purifying the same.

Claim 11 (amended) A method [for] of treating cartilage and/or bone diseases, which comprises administering to a human [a pharmaceutical composition containing, as an active ingredient,] an [effective] amount of the homodimer protein as claimed in claim 2 effective to treat cartilage and/or bone disease.

Claims 12 to 15, line 1 of each, change "for" to --of-- and change "and" to --and/or--

Cancel claim 8 and add the following claim:

B4  
--16. A process for preparing the protein of claim 1 which

comprises the steps of:

constructing a plasmid which is capable of expressing said protein and which <sup>consists of</sup> contains DNA sequence of SEQ ID No: 4 wherein a part is substituted with a DNA sequence having an ATG initiation codon and designed to increase the AT content around the ATG without alteration of encoded amino acid sequence,

transforming cells of E.coli with said plasmid,

culturing the <sup>cells</sup> transformed and

isolating the protein.--

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REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the amendments to the Abstract and the claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims remaining in the application are claims 1 to 7 and 9 to 16, claim 8 having been cancelled.

A new Abstract is being submitted herewith on a separate sheet of paper which complies with the MPEP.

Claims 1 to 15 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth on pages 2 through 4 of the office action.